

SNOHOMISH COUNTY

2025 Legislative Policy Document
DRAFT FOR REVIEW

Snohomish County Core Policy Principles – 2025

To ensure a consistent approach when working with the government of the State of Washington, Snohomish County affirms the following core policy principles.

Agent of the State

As established in the Washington State Constitution, Snohomish County is an agent of the State on the local level and provides many services on behalf of the State. **Snohomish County provides these services to all State residents whether in cities and towns or unincorporated areas.** The State must engage the County as an equal partner to determine the services offered and method of delivery to ensure that we are seamless, cost-effective, and responsive to our joint constituents. Without a strong and effective county government, the State will not succeed in achieving its own policy objectives.

Local Control

County government is the government closest to the people. To be responsive to the people, and appropriately reflect the diversity of our community, Snohomish County supports the principle of local control. **Snohomish County will strongly resist policies that erode local determination.** Additionally, policy, taxing, and regulatory authority should not be given to persons who are not directly accountable to the people through election.

Unfunded Mandates

In adopting Initiative 601, Washington voters required the Legislature to provide adequate funding to local governments when it mandates new or expanded local responsibilities. The State has an obligation to keep local responsibilities within existing revenue sources or to provide additional funding or funding authority when it imposes new mandates. **Snohomish County will seek appropriate funding for all legislative and agency mandates.** Further, the County will, in general, oppose new or expanded local responsibilities that are not fully funded and do not include ongoing funding for increases in costs or caseloads (subject to bill review). State funding must ensure equal access to basic county services such as public safety, law and justice, public health, human services, transportation, property tax assessment and collection, elections, and treasury services.

Provide Adequate State-Shared Revenue

State-shared revenues include items such as municipal criminal justice assistance, funding for foundational public health services, streamlined sales tax mitigation, distressed city-county assistance funding, liquor profit and tax revenue, marijuana tax revenue, rural economic development funding, motor vehicle fuel tax, and others. **These revenues remain incredibly important to Snohomish County because the only other legislatively provided revenue sources are property taxes and sales taxes.** Just as the State must provide new funding for new requirements imposed upon counties, it must also continue to provide existing funding.

Safe and Equitable Access to Local Government Services

Snohomish County believes its residents deserve equitable, easy access to local government services. This means mitigating the need for residents to travel long distances and addressing their needs in their primary language and in a culturally appropriate manner. State and local funds should support access to internet-based services as well as the resources necessary to provide safe and convenient in-person services.

Specific Legislative Policy Positions – 2025

Consistent with Snohomish County’s Core Policy Principles, Snohomish County will act to support, oppose, or monitor the following items as they become the subject of State policy discussions.

OPERATIONS AND FINANCE	
Washington State Association of Counties	Snohomish County supports the 2024-2025 legislative priorities adopted by the Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC) and its affiliates. Within WSAC, we also support the legislative priorities approved by the SWISS (Snohomish, Whatcom, Island, Skagit, San Juan) regional partnership’s executive committee.
Washington Association of County Officials	Snohomish County supports the 2025 legislative priorities adopted by the Washington Association of County Officials and its affiliates.
Fiscal Sustainability	Snohomish County strongly supports measures that allow our financial structure to meet our residents’ expectation of a modern county government; specifically, the Legislature must give counties the authority to control their cost drivers and provide counties the flexibility to establish revenue sources that keep pace with their costs.
Correlate Property Tax Rates to Meet Increasing Service Requirements	<p>Snohomish County strongly supports the pursuit of legislation which allows property tax revenue growth to be commensurate with inflation and population growth (factors that cause an increased need in services) to preclude counties being forced to make cuts to core governmental services.</p> <p>Property taxes comprise approximately 30% of Snohomish County’s general fund revenue and a sizable portion of road fund revenue. Current state-mandated caps on property tax assessments fail to address growing costs. In Snohomish County, public safety and the courts make up about 75% of County’s total general fund expenditures, which makes property tax revenue inextricably linked to ensuring adequate justice, health, and safety for Washington’s residents.</p>

<p>Tax Title Property</p>	<p>Snohomish County supports legislation to eliminate or revise RCW 36.35.150(2) which requires counties to give notice to cities of any tax foreclosed property and provide the opportunity for the city to acquire the property for affordable housing purposes. In 2018, 86 of 106 tax title properties acquired by the county were under .25 acres and would be too small to support affordable housing development. Yet complying with the statute’s process imposes an administrative burden.</p>
<p>Provide Election Materials in Multiple Languages</p>	<p>The 2024 Legislature considered HB 1861, which would require counties to provide elections materials in multiple languages under certain circumstances. The most recent version of the bill would not create an additional burden on Snohomish County as the county does not contain a language minority group meeting the bill’s population trigger. The Snohomish County Auditor, along with the Washington State Association of County Auditors and the Washington Secretary of State, worked with sponsor Rep. Shavers to draft amendments to improve the ability to implement the proposal. While Snohomish County would not currently be triggered, these amendments are critical to avoid any challenges should the county be designated in the future.</p> <p>The Snohomish County Auditor, along with the Washington State Association of County Auditors and the Washington Secretary of State, have worked with Rep. Shavers to ensure the amendments specify that the State will provide funding. Without state funding, best practice indicates an impact of \$238,000 per year per county for each triggered language minority group. The county will monitor similar proposals to HB 1861 to ensure Snohomish County is not negatively impacted.</p>
<p>Predictable Recording Fees</p>	<p>Predictable recording fees are still a policy goal for county auditors and recorders. The cost to record a document with the county has increased over the last several legislative sessions as the Legislature has used the recording fee to raise additional homelessness and housing dollars. The recording fee is an unreliable source of funding as the amount of money brought in is reliant on the number of documents recorded. With the significant decrease in recording volumes related to the slowdown of the housing and refinance markets, revenue for homelessness and housing programs has dropped. This trend has continued into the 2023 and 2024 Legislative Sessions, creating a revenue shortfall for local housing and homelessness programs. The response from the 2023 Legislature was to increase the recording fee, leaving Washington State with the highest recording fee in the nation. The 2024 Legislature provided \$25 million from the State General Fund to backfill document recording fee shortfalls for Fiscal Year 25. Snohomish County asks the Legislature to consider solutions to address document recording fee shortfalls that do not raise recording fees. Auditors</p>

	<p>and recorders are concerned that people will forego recording documents based on the high cost of recording, leaving our property records incomplete.</p>
<p>Public Records Act Reform</p>	<p>The Public Records Act is a cornerstone of government transparency in Washington. Snohomish County implements the Public Records Act every day, ensuring transparency in government decision making and public access to government records. However, some individuals abuse the Public Records Act by making requests that are intended to harass public employees or are motivated by profit. These abusive requests require a disproportionate number of resources, diminishing the ability of the county to respond efficiently and effectively to requests made by citizens with a legitimate desire to interact with their government. Snohomish County will continue monitoring both prior legislative changes and new legislative proposals that may affect operations in connection with our compliance with the Public Records Act, (PRA) RCW 42.56.</p>
<p>Clean Buildings Act</p>	<p>Snohomish County’s CBA Tier 1 portfolio consists of 13 buildings totaling 1.6 million square feet. We currently have identified \$7.4 million in energy efficiency measures (EEMs) for these buildings. This ROM estimate does not include costs for unforeseen conditions or remediation efforts. Not all identified EEMs are required for CBA Tier 1 compliance, but if targets are reduced for subsequent compliance cycles, they may be needed. A couple of items impacting compliance that would be helpful for further consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many airport hangars are used for industrial purposes. However, the industrial exemption relies upon international building code occupancy designations ‘Factory Group F’ and “high hazard group H”. Constant ownership and complex lease agreements make it impractical to change occupancy designations, even though it may be required by the occupant’s business. Aircraft Manufacturing falls under Group F, but not Aircraft Maintenance or Storage. Hangars used for aircraft storage and repair are classified under 3.112 Moderate-hazard storage, Group S-1. Adding this designation to the exemption likely would not have a big impact on carbon reduction but would ease administrative work related to complex lease and ownership agreements at airports. • Retrofits in older publicly owned buildings may require materials such as asbestos and PCBs to be abated prior to work which adds costs to retrofit work. It would be helpful to have a special pool of money made available for this remediation work to ensure that these retrofits are done properly to reduce the possibility of environmental harm outweighing the benefits of compliance.

ECONOMIC & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT / TOURISM

<p>Economic Alliance Snohomish County</p>	<p>Snohomish County is a proud partner in the Economic Alliance. EASC is currently in the middle of the SnoCo ADO designation agreement, which ends the state fiscal year July 2025. The Executive will determine the ADO designation for the 26-27 term in fall 2024.</p>
<p>Cross Laminate Timber</p>	<p>Snohomish County supports the establishment of a Cross Laminate Timber facility, research and development CLT as well as the reform of building code amendments for greater use of CLT in construction. Snohomish County will support CLT funding opportunities that become available.</p> <p>The building code was amended to allow CLT buildings to now go up to 18 floors. The EcoDevo team continues to meet with lead project manager (LN with DCNR) to support their vision for attracting a European industry partner to create jobs and bring investments to Darrington and larger SnoCo as a part of the Wood Innovation Center. EcoDevo along with the FWA board intends to further discuss with DCNR the needs for the workforce and training that will be a part of the innovation center.</p>
<p>Support Local Tourism Investments</p>	<p>Snohomish County also supports the Washington Tourism Marketing Authority and a marketing plan and advertising campaign that focus on bringing more tourists to Washington and out to rural and tourism dependent counties. The State Legislature increased the amount for state tourism and Snohomish County will continue to support any continual requests for additional funds.</p>
<p>Build a Reliable, Diverse, and Skilled Workforce</p>	<p>Support legislation allowing aerospace and advanced manufacturing companies to retain a portion of their B&O tax for in-company training to enhance competitiveness. Support continued funding for the Economic Security for All initiative. Current funding for the initiative comes from state general funds Also support funding and technical assistance to develop and sustain low-barrier, high-intensity employment readiness services for low-income individuals and family head-of-households experiencing multiple challenges to accessing and successfully engaging in employment activities.</p>

<p>Address Immediate Workforce Needs</p>	<p>Support efforts to address immediate workforce needs and develop a future talent pipeline through various programs, including pre-apprenticeships, apprenticeships, and community outreach and engagement. Critical areas include behavioral health and healthcare services, early childhood education workforce, training for childcare providers, clean energy transition, aviation and aerospace, life sciences and medical device manufacturing, and Information Technology (IT).</p> <p>Snohomish County supports additional program funding through the Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges to both the Washington Aerospace and Training Resource Center run by Edmonds College and for the Everett Community College Aviation Maintenance Technology program at Paine Field. These aerospace programs are critical to develop future aerospace technicians, mechanics and industry professionals.</p> <p>The County also supports both expanding the existing program funding for the Mukilteo School District Sno-Isle Tech Skills Center Aerospace Manufacturing & Maintenance Technology and Advanced Manufacturing Programs and fast tracking their capital program funding allocated to the Skill Centers of Washington through the Washington Office of Public Instructions. Sno-Isles Tech is out of space, has a shovel ready design to expand that is awaiting funding.</p>
<p>Complying with FAA Policy Regarding Fuel Taxes</p>	<p>The state has collected a Petroleum Product Tax (PPT) and a Hazardous Substance Tax (HST) since about 1987, which applies to fuel pumped on airports in the state. This amounts to a tax of \$0.18 per gallon of fuel pumped on airports across the state and currently totals about \$20 million annually that should be returned to airports in the state; however, it is going into the “general fund” and has never been returned to airports as mandated by the FAA. This tax by federal law should be given back to airports helping them remain self-sufficient. The FAA’s Policy and Procedures Concerning the use of Airport Revenue; Proceeds from Taxes on Aircraft fuel (FAA Policy) requires that state and local taxes imposed on aviation fuel after December 30, 1987, be used exclusively for airport purposes and aviation programs, it has not.</p> <p>The legislature is aware and will receive a report on the topic as required by Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 6168. The Department of Revenue will submit this report to the Legislature and is required to update the publication titled “Washington Action Plan—FAA Policy Concerning Airport Revenue” and to consult with the Washington State Department of Transportation, Aviation Division, to develop and recommend to the fiscal committees of the Legislature a method of separately tracking the actual amounts collected from</p>

	<p>the hazardous substance tax (HST) and the petroleum products tax (PPT) to the extent these taxes are imposed on aviation fuel.</p> <p>In parallel, airports in the state are working together to partner with legal counsel to force the issue. We will be monitoring the work of partners and support efforts to force the state to return the funds to airports and no longer divert the revenue.</p>
<p>Commercial Aviation Workgroup</p>	<p>The Legislature established the Washington State Commercial Aviation Workgroup in the 2023 Legislative Session. This workgroup replaces the Washington Commercial Aviation Coordinating Committee, which concluded its work in 2023. The Commercial Aviation Workgroup is tasked with evaluating the state’s long-range commercial aviation and transportation needs, including identifying options to meet capacity needs specifically by expanding existing airport(s). Snohomish County will monitor the work of this group, which began meeting in July 2024. The Workgroup’s first report is due to the Legislature July 1, 2025.</p>
<p>Support Predevelopment Opportunities for Airport Land</p>	<p>Snohomish County will monitor state grant or budget funding opportunities to bring undeveloped portions of Paine Field to shovel-ready status, allowing the county to remain ready for strategic economic development opportunities. In particular, the county could be interested in developing 120 acres on the west side of Paine Field; however, this land needs significant environmental work to become ready for any future development. The county supports fully funding the Department of Ecology’s Remedial Action Grant and Loan program to help assist with this and other land development.</p>
<p>Ongoing Support for the Regional Apprenticeship Pathways Program</p>	<p>Snohomish County secured ongoing funding for the Regional Apprenticeship Pathways Program in the 2023 State Operating budget. The county supports the continuation of this ongoing funding and asks the state to ensure these investments are retained.</p>
<p>Climate Economy</p>	<p>Support programs, initiatives, and funding to transition existing jobs and create new jobs to meet climate economy goal and standards. Support efforts to stimulate both economic and workforce development in areas that include clean energy, green building, and other renewable practices and technologies, while maintaining a diverse economic base. Support programs and initiatives that support business’s transition to clean energy and legislation that supports and strengthen businesses adding to the climate economy.</p>

	<p>Related to this, Snohomish County will continue to monitor the work of the work of the Clean Energy Technology Workforce Advisory Committee (CETWAC). The Legislature established CETWAC in the 2023 Legislative Session to develop a workforce feedback mechanism to advise on policy as the state moves forward with climate-focused initiatives.</p>
<p>Workforce Development System Capacity Building</p>	<p>Snohomish County will support efforts aimed at building capacity in the workforce development ecosystem, including programs and initiatives to strengthen community-based organizations and to enhance connectivity between workforce system partners.</p>
<p>PAE Signage</p>	<p>As Paine Field capacity expands, the county will look for opportunities to study the potential need for and appropriate location of additional signage to provide clear directions to Paine Field while reducing traffic impacts to neighboring communities.</p>

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE	
Restore Funding to the Public Works Assistance Account	Snohomish County supports continued full funding of the Public Works Assistance Account. The County supports continued use of the state Public Works Assistance Account revolving loan program for local roads, streets, bridges, water systems, sewer systems and storm water facilities. Counties also support expanded use of the loan fund for county courthouse facilities, and adult or juvenile detention facilities. In addition, counties support state grant assistance for the construction and maintenance of county law and justice facilities.
Implementation of the Connecting Washington Transportation Package	Snohomish County will monitor the implementation of the Connecting Washington Transportation Package to ensure efficient and timely delivery of projects, particularly in the Snohomish County region. As the Legislature responds to revenue deficits in the transportation budget, Snohomish County asks that Connecting Washington projects remain intact and scheduled for delivery on-time. Snohomish County supports developing planning and funding solutions for chokepoint and congestion relief in alignment with priorities of Snohomish Committee for Improved Transportation (SCCIT).
Culverts/Fish Passage	Snohomish County supports a systematic approach to funding county culverts/fish passages across the state. All counties need dedicated funding sources to achieve this, and we support a more coordinated effort with the state to ensure we are spending the limited funds effectively to open habitat and remove barriers.
Transportation Program Funding	Snohomish County supports continued and additional funding for the Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) and the County Road Administration Board (CRAB). The county also supports legislative investment in a program that would provide funding for preservation, maintenance, and construction needs for local access roads.
High-Capacity Transit Systems	Snohomish County supports funding for Bus Rapid Transit and non-motorized connections to light rail stations. Improving east-west multimodal capacity on state and county arterials is increasingly important as

	<p>light rail is constructed along the I-5 spine, and riders from the east and west need access to stations. This will require funding for improvements to SR 96, 128th Street SW, 164th Street SW and SR 524.</p> <p>Additionally, Snohomish County supports maintaining funding for light rail and bus rapid transit expansion into the County to achieve light rail to Everett by 2036.</p>
<p>Freight Mobility and Rail</p>	<p>Snohomish County supports funding and policy solutions to improve freight mobility, including short-line railroads, at-grade crossings, and rail/trail integration; however, we will monitor and weigh-in on the timeliness of proposals related to track infrastructure improvements within the county boundaries.</p>
<p>Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program Match</p>	<p>Snohomish County supports state funding for non-Federal match for the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program.</p>
<p>Prevailing Wages on Public Works</p>	<p>Snohomish County will monitor proposals requiring the hourly minimum rate of wage for laborers, workers, or mechanics be adjusted to provide that such wage is not less than the latest prevailing rate of wage in effect at the time the work is performed, amending RCW 39.12.030.</p> <p>If this change is made, the County expects bids to come in higher to cover potential wage increases, or a rise in change orders, force account, and increase our administrative costs with far more complicated review and oversight. We propose that it be limited to projects with a duration of more than two years.</p> <p>In the 2023 Legislative Session, the proposed bill, HB 1099, did not move beyond the House Committee on Labor & Workplace Standards. We can expect to see this bill come back in some other form.</p>
<p>Broadband Demonstration Sites</p>	<p>Subject to the award of federal grant funding, the State Broadband Office is considering establishing three broadband demonstration sites, one which would be located in the SWISS region. Snohomish County supports legislative efforts to implement these proposed broadband demonstration sites.</p>

Multimodal Corridor
Improvements to
Support Sound Transit
Expansion

Snohomish County supports the Legislature investing in new projects and bolstering existing programs that fund multimodal corridor improvements supporting the expansion of Sound Transit light rail into Snohomish County.

SOLID WASTE

<p style="text-align: center;">Disposal of Derelict Recreational Vehicles</p>	<p>The 2024 Legislature considered SB 5844, directing the Department of Ecology to establish a voluntary grant program providing funding to counties to administer a dilapidated recreational vehicle program. Program funds to be used for: scrapping, recycling and reimburse vehicle owner full/partial cost of towing and hauling of vehicle. Title/Proof of ownership required when disposal vehicle through this program. Snohomish County Solid Waste currently has a program to process RVs and would support efforts to streamline derelict RV processing. We will monitor similar proposals going forward.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Achieving Higher Rates of Recycling</p>	<p>The Legislature has considered several proposals to increase statewide recycling access and uptake (including HB 1900 from the 2024 Legislative Session). Proposed legislation creates new requirements for recyclable products that include truth in labeling, material characterization and info for public to be published by Dept. of Ecology. It also includes the development and identification of a statewide list of materials for curbside collection and drop off collection (Transfer Stations).</p> <p>Snohomish County Solid Waste is in favor of increased recycling and the standardized list of items to be accepted would clarify inconsistencies across the state regarding recyclables; however, depending on the details of legislative proposals, county facilities could need significant infrastructure improvements or substantial staffing increases to support a statewide recycling program.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Improved End-of-Life Management of Used Batteries</p>	<p>SB 5144 (passed in 2023; implementation in 2029). This legislation created a Battery Stewardship Program funded by producers to ensure proper handling, recycling, and end-of-life management of used batteries. Through a contractual agreement between producers and government entities, government facilities can service as a collection site for the program.</p> <p>Snohomish County Solid Waste is in favor of battery EPR. Of main concern related to battery collection is the addition of medium format batteries, physical storage of materials, and added hazards of larger items.</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">Additional EPR Programs</p>	<p>There are several other legislative proposals adding or overhauling EPR programs potentially returning in the 2025 Legislative Session that could impact Snohomish County. Examples could include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mercury-Containing Lights (replacement of current program – we’d support this but need to consider contractual issues of the EPR framework) 2. EV Battery Recycling (EV recycling is an important component of the industry, however, SWD does not have capacity or expertise to collect. Would need to see the specifics of the EPR) 3. EPR for Refrigerant Gases (Snohomish County would generally support this concept, but need to see the specifics of the EPR) 4. Right to Repair (Snohomish County would generally support this concept; we currently support WSU Extension service in sponsoring repair cafes throughout the year) <p>We would advocate that the developers of the programs coordinate with local government on insurance and indemnification aspects of the agreements. Local government purchasing, code and risk management perspectives should be directly considered when drafting program agreements.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">State SW Funding Flexibility</p>	<p>State solid waste funds are currently passed through to counties through loans, which must be repaid to the state. Snohomish County supports the Washington Association of County Solid Waste Managers (WACSWM) in changing the funding mechanism to grants.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Derelict Vessel Program</p>	<p>Snohomish County supports additional funding for the Department of Natural Resources’ Derelict Vessel Removal Program, which provides grants to local governments for removing derelict vessels. There continues to be a statewide backlog to remove these vessels, which harm marine ecosystems and are a public safety risk.</p>

PUBLIC SAFETY / LAW & JUSTICE	
Criminal Justice Funding	<p>Snohomish County will work to gain adequate funding for all essential law and justice services, and to remove unnecessary or overly burdensome state requirements on the law and justice system. As subdivisions of the state, counties believe the state must take a greater role in funding state-mandated law and justice activities that are administered at the county level, including all costs associated with the arrest, prosecution, defense, and detention of persons charged with felony crimes. The state also should assist in funding discretionary court services, such as drug and mental health courts that reduce impacts to state prisons and juvenile institutions and other costly state programs.</p>
Indigent Defense	<p>Snohomish County requests ongoing and increased funding for indigent defense. Each year, Snohomish County receives approximately \$500,000 in state funding to comply with state standards for indigent defense. The state assigned the duty to counties to provide an adequate defense for indigent citizens, yet the state only funds less than five percent of what counties currently spend for these services.</p>
Funding for Law Enforcement Training Academies	<p>Snohomish County supports ongoing funding for the Basic Law Enforcement Academy and the expansion of regional academies.</p> <p>The 2023-25 Operating Budget provided funding for three additional Basic Law Enforcement Academy classes at the main Burien campus each fiscal year and three new regional training academies (one each in Pasco, Snohomish County, and Clark County) to support six additional BLEA classes per year.</p>
Funding for Corrections Academy	<p>Snohomish County supports funding for additional Corrections Officer Academy courses. The 2024 Legislature provided \$484,000 for FY 24 and \$3,187,000 in FY 25 for additional corrections classes. The county believes law enforcement's best path is to continue to encourage regional academies for the law enforcement BLEA classes, to create additional capacity for Corrections courses to become available.</p>

<p>Funding for Regional and Local Drug Taskforces</p>	<p>We believe the funding emphasis for drugs is likely to be continued around treatment, outreach, and recovery. The 2024 Legislature provided \$2.7 million to support regional drug taskforces through FY 25. A portion of this funding was reserved for the Governor’s Office to convene three roundtables to discuss the future of regional drug task forces and funding with state, local, and tribal governments.</p>
<p>Dispute Resolution Centers</p>	<p>Snohomish County supports legislation which allows a county legislative authority to impose a new surcharge of up to \$20 in addition to civil filing fees in superior court for the purpose of funding Dispute Resolution Centers (DRCs). Proposed legislation also allows a county legislative authority to raise the existing surcharge fee in district court and small claims court from a maximum of \$10 to \$15 respectively, to a maximum of \$20 for the purpose of funding DRCs. Lastly, the legislation would exempt persons paying an annual assessment for the manufactured/mobile home dispute resolution program from paying the surcharge on superior court civil filing fees for DRCs.</p>
<p>Support Funds Dedicated to Auto Theft Enforcement</p>	<p>Auto theft continues to be a major source of crime in Washington State. Snohomish County continues to support dedicated funds for auto theft enforcement through the Washington Auto Theft Prevention Authority (WATPA). When the WATPA account was created, it was funded through a \$10 surcharge on traffic infractions. WATPA now only receives \$2.58 for every \$10 collected. Because of this funding, law enforcement has been able to dedicate additional resources to identifying and investigating organized and prolific individuals responsible for numerous auto thefts. The county also supports funding and/or legislative changes to address nuisance vehicle noise levels.</p>
<p>Hate Crimes</p>	<p>Snohomish County has been experiencing a rise in hate crimes and incidents of hate in our communities. We have taken actions as a county to condemn hate crimes and believe there is no place for hate, violence, and racism in Snohomish County.</p> <p>We support efforts to reduce hate crimes as well as data tracking to better respond to hate crimes against protected classes when they are committed.</p>
<p>Monitor New County Responsibilities for Competency</p>	<p>State facilities are at capacity to provide court-mandated services, including competency restoration for individuals in the forensic mental health system, and Juvenile Rehabilitation for youth convicted of crimes. The state has floated short- and long-term proposals shifting some of these populations into county-owned</p>

Restoration and Juvenile Rehabilitation	facilities, placing the county at potential risk for legal liability and placing greater burden on our under-resourced systems. Snohomish County will monitor any proposals that place state responsibilities to provide these services onto counties.
Therapeutic Courts	The state provided funding in 2021 to expand or establish therapeutic courts statewide. Snohomish County asks the state to maintain or increase this funding to support therapeutic court operation and expansion.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS / EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

<p style="text-align: center;">Stable Emergency Management Funding</p>	<p>Snohomish County supports legislation and funding proposals that provide sustainable funding for statewide emergency management. Local and state emergency management organizations rely heavily on federal grant funding, which has been substantially reduced in recent years. Snohomish County, like other counties, currently receives no direct funding from the state to support emergency management. Since 1996, Snohomish County has had the most federally declared disasters in Washington. Statewide sustainable funding for emergency management means the county receives more resources we can use to prepare for, respond to, and recover from the range of significant to potentially catastrophic hazards facing our various communities.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Increase and Stabilization of 911 Excise Tax</p>	<p>The E911 Excise tax is used to fund the local portion of the 911 system. In total, the tax brought in approximately 8.3 million dollars. The tax is restricted at .70 cents per subscriber line and the County is required to assess the maximum rate to participate in a State Grant program that brings in another \$80,000 to the EESCS Office. The only way to increase the total annual collection is through an increase in subscribers, either through in migration to the county or expansion of business. Currently, Snohomish County sees about a one percent increase in population annually. This increase has not kept up with the inflation of costs associated with running the system which has resulted in increased costs to the agencies that participate in SNO911. Snohomish County should support any legislation that comes forward to allow for an increase in the 911 excise tax.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Bolster Funding for Climate Emergencies and Resilience</p>	<p>Snohomish County supports greater state investment in adapting to climate emergencies and increasing climate resiliency, including upgrades to facilities for extreme weather events, and planning.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Funding the State's Individual Assistance and Public Infrastructure Assistance Program</p>	<p>Washington State is the state with the fourth highest number of presidentially declared disasters, yet only rarely do these declarations qualify for individual assistance that goes directly to impacted residents. To bridge this gap, WA EMD developed and piloted an individual assistance program which would provide limited, state-funded, support to individuals after disasters that do not meet Federal individual assistance thresholds. This program was piloted in 2022, and funding was requested but not received in the 2024 budget. If this program had been funded, there could have been state funding available to provide some</p>

	<p>support to the Snohomish County residents who had no flood insurance and had greater than 40% loss on their primary residence in the early December storms.</p> <p>Additionally, the 2024 Legislature enacted House Bill 2020, which established an emergency assistance program for counties or tribes to make repairs to public facilities damaged by natural disasters. However, only \$250,000 was provided in the budget to establish the program. Additional funding is needed to provide grants through the program.</p> <p>Snohomish County supports the Legislature providing adequate funding to make these programs viable.</p>
<p>Banning UAS Aircraft manufactured in China</p>	<p>SB 5755 (2023). There has a been a movement nationwide to ban UAS (Drones) manufactured in China due to security concerns. Most of these concerns have been unfounded and Snohomish County does not use the aircraft for matters of national security. Proposed bans would only apply to UAS, and no other technology made in China like computers and cell phones. Currently, Snohomish County DEM has 4 aircraft that are used on a regular basis that would be banned by this legislation. The cost to replace these aircraft would be in the \$60,000 to \$80,000 range. Snohomish County Sheriff’s Office has 20 aircraft that would be banned. There are no US-made drones currently on the open market that meet DEMs criteria for a similar price point. If similar proposals are introduced, the county will look for solutions that will allow at least existing equipment to remain in use. The county cannot support a total ban, including aircraft already purchased and in service with local governments.</p>

PLANNING / LAND USE & DEVELOPMENT	
Open Space Funding	RCW 36.70A.160 requires the identification of open space corridors. With increased pressure to expand urban growth areas, funding to identify and conserve open space would help local governments plan for or provide access to and connect open space, create urban separators, or develop other tools to preserve green space.
Military Compatible Land Use	Adjacent to military lands, Snohomish County encourages land uses that are compatible with military uses and discourage land uses that are incompatible. Snohomish County will monitor legislation regarding encroachment, transportation access and military compatible land use.
Transit Oriented Development	Snohomish County supports legislative proposals that establish a dedicated funding source for infrastructure improvements associated with Sound Transit's planned Everett Link Extension Light Rail Stations and Operations and Maintenance Facility. Additionally, the county supports legislative funding for transportation related investments needed to accommodate Link Extension Light Rail, including pedestrian overcrossings on I-5.
Boundary Review Board Review Period	<p>Under current law, cities submit a Notice of Intention (NOI) for annexation, which triggers a formal 45-day review process under the jurisdiction of the Boundary Review Board. During that time, the County may identify complicated, but resolvable issues. Unfortunately, 45 days is oftentimes not enough time to resolve the issue with the city. To lengthen the time, the only mechanism allowed under law is to invoke the Boundary Review Board, adding costs to both the city and the County. The County supports legislation that will allow the 45-day review period to be extended if all parties agree to the extension.</p> <p>This continues to be problematic and may best be addressed through legislation brought forward by WSAC, Washington Association of Cities and Boundary Review Boards.</p>
Implementation of HB 1110/1120	Snohomish County supports funding for the Department of Commerce to monitor implementation of HB 1110/1220 rather than delegating to individual jurisdictions.

<p style="text-align: center;">Abandoned Homes/Nuisance Abatement</p>	<p>In 2018 the Washington State Legislature enacted Second Engrossed Substitute House Bill 2057 (HB 2057). This bill requires counties, cities, and towns to inspect residential real property and determine if it is abandoned and a nuisance within 15 days of receipt of a request from a mortgage lender. Such requests must be accompanied by documentation showing the property is in mid-foreclosure.</p> <p>In adopting HB 2057, the Legislature created an unfunded mandate requiring the County to visit and inspect residential properties that it otherwise would not be required to inspect. Snohomish County supports amending Chapter 7.100 RCW to lengthen the time that a jurisdiction has to complete the inspect from 15 calendar days to 45 calendar days; expressly allow jurisdictions to charge a fee to the mortgage servicer for the inspection commensurate with the cost of the service; and clarify what conditions at a residential property would be sufficient for a local official to determine that a nuisance exists.</p> <p>Clarification is also needed on authority of who will determine if a structure does not meet minimum requirements. Multiple departments are needed to address this issue in determining abatement (Health and Building currently, including L&I if a manufactured home). Only one inquiry this past year and no mortgage lenders have made a formal request.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Sewer Connections</p>	<p>A goal of GMA and Vision 2050 is to prioritize development within urban growth areas. There are areas within Snohomish County's unincorporated urban growth areas that are not served by sewer. The cost to replace septic system with a connection to sewer is considerably high. Improved ground water quality is a big incentive for connecting to a sewer system. Snohomish County supports efforts to find financial solutions to property owners to connect to a local sewer system.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">OFM Projections</p>	<p>Under current state law, Snohomish County's deadline to complete mandated updates to the comprehensive plan is December 31, 2024. Updates were restored to a 10-year cycle by the legislature in a recent session which puts the deadline for the next comprehensive plan update in 2034. There were considerable timing challenges in 2022/20233 with regards to OFM population forecast numbers and Department of Commerce 20-year housing targets. To avoid future problems, it may be advisable to amend state law to require OFM and Commerce to deliver 20-year growth forecasts to those counties subject to the 2034 deadline no later than December 2031.</p>

Implementation of SB
5290

The Legislature adopted SB 5290 in the 2024 Legislative Session. The bill adjusted local permitting processes and timelines to streamline permitting processes for the public. However, Snohomish County – and other local jurisdictions – have identified issues implementing the bill, particularly around the definition of “consolidated review.” The county supports legislative fixes to the statute to correct implementation issues and provide greater clarity around the definition of “consolidated review.”

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP / CLIMATE CHANGE

<p>Greenhouse Gas Emissions</p>	<p>Snohomish County supports legislation that encourages and allows counties to adopt policies and ordinances to reduce their organizational/business practices impact on greenhouse gas emissions. Additionally, the County supports legislation that encourages and allows counties to incorporate into plans, policies, regulations, and ordinances that reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with activities within the comprehensive planning and environmental review processes.</p> <p>In lieu of mandated requirements, counties support the following efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide incentives and education to achieve goals; • Provide performance outcomes and not prescriptive measures to follow; • Create an optional climate change element in GMA. Do not make any climate change goal or element within the GMA subject to the appeals process; • Recognize emerging science and subjectivity of solutions; • Fund incentive grants for counties to integrate climate change into Comprehensive Plan and Development Regulations. • Provide funding to counties for a set of programs that will illustrate how counties propose to integrate climate resiliency into Comprehensive Plan and Development Regulations. <p>Any legislation that directs counties to address climate change and greenhouse gas emissions must come with adequate and ongoing state funding to support local processes to plan, implement, monitor, and evaluate the requirements.</p>
<p>Clean Energy and Conservation</p>	<p>Snohomish County supports legislation that promotes clean and renewable energy, including but not limited to, the continuation of federal and state funds that support the electrification of transportation, low carbon fuels, high performance buildings, clean air and water, and minimization of greenhouse gas emissions.</p>
<p>Optional Property Tax Exemption for Green Building</p>	<p>Snohomish County supports legislation that allows counties to exempt green building certified (i.e., energy efficiency and low-impact development) single- family or multi-family construction from the county property tax levy.</p>

<p>Funding for EV Infrastructure</p>	<p>Snohomish County remains concerned about funding availability for electrical vehicle charging infrastructure. While there are some grants available, the infrastructure isn't staying up with the growing demand. We can address infrastructure for the county's operational needs, but within current resources, the county is unable to consider improvements to public infrastructure in Snohomish County.</p>
<p>Preserve Funding for Environmental Priorities</p>	<p>Snohomish County as a partner in preserving our environment supports continued funding for state programs that provide grants to local governments to implement high priority projects that advance state environmental goals. Examples of these grant programs include:</p> <p>Department of Commerce: Clean Energy Fund, Energy Efficiency and Solar Grants</p> <p>Department of Ecology: Centennial Clean Water program, Floodplains by Design program, Coastal Protection Fund – THA, Aquatic Invasive Plant Management Grants, Section 319 pollution control grants, Stormwater Financial Assistance</p> <p>Department of Fish & Wildlife: Brian Abbott Fish Barrier Removal Board</p> <p>Recreation and Conservation Office: Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration (PSAR), Salmon Recovery Lead Entity grants, Salmon Recovery Funding Board Community Based Restoration Funding, Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA), Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP), Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP), Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), Marine Shoreline Protection, Farmland Protection Program (WWRP)</p> <p>Additionally, many of the grant programs are funded or have been bolstered by Climate Commitment Act (CCA) dollars. Snohomish County asks that the Legislature retain adequate funding for these programs should the CCA no longer be a viable funding source.</p>
<p>Increased Funding for WWRP Farmland Protection Program</p>	<p>Farmland protection through the WWRP granting program through the Recreational Conservation Office has been limited due to the allocation of funding and the number of high-quality projects. Snohomish County supports increasing funding to the WWRP program, which will increase funding to the Farmland Protection Program. This is the only statewide funding source available.</p>

<p>Stormwater Funding</p>	<p>Snohomish County is a Phase 1 NPDES jurisdiction. As the state adopts its capital budget, the county requests that ongoing funding be allocated to stormwater grant programs. Snohomish County supports state funding to help counties meet the requirements of the state issued NPDES stormwater permit. The permit imposes significant requirements on local governments to inspect, maintain, operate, monitor, and plan for stormwater systems. The annual operating cost of complying with these requirements in Snohomish County is over \$10 million and the annual capital cost is over \$4 million. At a gross level, the estimated cost to retrofit all existing county roads to meet the highest current stormwater management standards is on the order of \$2-\$3 billion. Substantial state funding would need to be added to local funding streams to make progress in these two priority areas. Existing funding is not sufficient to accommodate the many changes in state requirements around stormwater, including overall reductions in permit limits, new requirements for best management practices, new treatment resources, new testing requirements, and updates needed to infrastructure.</p>
<p>Dependable Funding for Savvy Septic Program</p>	<p>Counties and local health jurisdictions (LHJs) across the Puget Sound and the state share this problem of not having a reliable, stable funding source to assist in financing septic repairs. Snohomish County does not have a stable funding source to continue offering the Savvy Septic program to homeowners, especially the low-income grant portion. Yet, the County has over 80,000 septic systems and approximately (75% have reached the end of their useful life). The county would support legislation similar to HB 2527 introduced in the 2016 legislative session that would provide a funding source for onsite septic programs. Snohomish County believes it is the state’s responsibility to fund onsite septic programs at the county level.</p>
<p>Food & Farming Center</p>	<p>Snohomish County can enhance agriculture food production in the region with the creation of the Snohomish County Food and Farming Center at McCollum Park in South Everett. Working with local farmers infrastructure needs have been identified which include processing, aggregation, and distribution of local farm products. A commercial kitchen for the creation of value-added products which can also serve as an incubator kitchen, and a year-round indoor farmers market to increase farm sales as well as providing local fruits and vegetables to local communities. Two existing buildings will be remodeled, and a market building will be constructed. The county received \$2.55 million for this project in the 2022 Capital Budget for planning and design of the project. The county is in progress of completing these phases funded by the Legislature; as this project continues developing, the county asks the Legislature to support future capital and operating needs, likely in the 25-27 biennium.</p>

Environmental Impact
on Vulnerable
Communities

The Washington State Community Action Partnership (WSCAP) is advocating that all environment related policies take into consideration and address the short- and long-term impacts on vulnerable individuals/households, those with limited incomes who often live in highly impacted or rural communities, who are most likely to experience a disproportionate impact/burden and least likely to benefit from financial benefits.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

<p style="text-align: center;">Foundational Public Health Services</p>	<p>Snohomish County recognizes the importance of public health and supports continued and increased state funding for public health. The state must begin stabilizing the crumbling system and fill the most critical gaps in core public health services that support the entire governmental public health system in Washington and that threaten the health of Snohomish County communities. The requested funding will restore key functions that have already been lost and improve local public health’s ability to respond to the threat of communicable and chronic diseases. These are core public health services that need to be available to every community in the state.</p> <p>Snohomish County also asks the Legislature to ensure full funding for Foundational Public Health remains intact if budget cuts are made.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (MFCU)</p>	<p>MCFU is a group of insurance investigators who work for the Attorney General. Washington State is the only state in the country that does not give MCFU investigators any law enforcement authority. These investigators have access to pharmacies and providers and can determine who is overprescribing opioids. Local law enforcement does not have the capacity to investigate these issues. Snohomish County supports legislation that gives law enforcement authority to these fraud investigators.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Data Sharing Across Jurisdictions</p>	<p>We support creating policies and procedures that allow local health jurisdictions and health departments to access data and limited datasets created or maintained by local, county and state agencies.</p> <p>We also support the establishment of a work group to determine the minimum requirements necessary for a universal data sharing agreement that respects the relevant policy and statutory controls (e.g., HIPAA, 42 CFR) that currently are in place to safeguard personal and protected information. We also support creating a standard data sharing agreement that can be used across and between all government agencies at the local, county and state level.</p>

<p>Allowing EMTs to Work in Stand-alone Facilities</p>	<p>Snohomish County supports revisions to RCW Chapter 18.73 Emergency Medical Care and Transportation Services to allow EMTs to work in stand-alone facilities. The Snohomish County Diversion Center opened in June 2018 with a one-year license from the Department of Health that allows EMTs employed by Pioneer Human Services, the County’s subcontractor to work within the Diversion Center. Revisions to RCW Chapter 18.73 are required to allow Pioneer Human Services to obtain the required Department of Health license to continue to employ EMTs beyond May 2019. This RCW revision is also needed for King County’s Sobering Center to continue to utilize EMTs. A temporary extension was granted, but revisions still needed for longer-term solution.</p>
<p>Developmental Disabilities Advisory Board and Snohomish County Children’s Commission</p>	<p>Snohomish County supports the 2025 Legislative Recommendations of the Development Disabilities Advisory Board and the Snohomish County Children’s Commission.</p>
<p>Sustainable and Flexible Funding</p>	<p>Snohomish County provides services on behalf of the state for which we are underfunded. Frequently this is a product of payment structures which don’t allow the County to right size services to the funds available. State government must break down barriers to providing services to multi-need individuals and families. The state must remove programmatic, administrative, and regulatory barriers to local government. Local service providers must be allowed to work collaboratively to design and implement comprehensive service packages that meet all the challenges of serving the multi-needs client. Counties also request adequate funding to meet the complex needs of individuals and families with both multiple medical diagnoses and economic challenges.</p> <p>Counties support full state funding of all mental health services the state requires counties to provide, as well as for any additional state mandates and shifts in priority populations. In addition, counties advocate sound policy decisions regarding the provision of appropriate care to individuals experiencing mental illness based upon the best judgment of county mental health professionals and administrators.</p>

<p>Case Management Funding</p>	<p>In-home long-term care is an under-appreciated support for 4.250 people with serious mental illness. One in four of the people discharged to long-term care from the state mental health hospitals is placed in-home.</p> <p>We are in alignment with the Department of Social and Health Services' Aging and Long Term Support Administration request for funding in the 25-27 biennium to reduce caseload ratios from 75:1 to 72:1. These caseload reductions will reduce disparities in quality and outcomes for clients, prioritize person centered planning, meet required timeframes and increase provider network stability. In total, this would cost WA State \$21,901,000 (\$10,951,000 GF-S).</p>
<p>Supported Employment and Community Inclusion</p>	<p>Fully fund a robust system of Supported Employment and Community Inclusion services to promote financial and social stability for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. This includes sustainable provider rates and access to waivers for eligible students leaving high school.</p>
<p>Care Providers</p>	<p>Fully fund access to a complete continuum of high-quality care for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in their homes and community. This includes funding for dependable, well-trained, well-paid, and culturally competent providers and is inclusive of health/behavioral health services.</p>
<p>Workforce and Comprehensive Services for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities</p>	<p>Fully fund comprehensive services for individuals (children, youth, and adults) with intellectual and developmental disabilities to support their ability to lead lives of optimal independence and dignity. This includes acknowledging the unique capacity of families to support their child and ensuring the availability of resources that each family/individual needs. This includes funding for dependable, well-trained, well-paid, and culturally competent workforce, including those providing community residential, employment, and in-home support services.</p>
<p>Support for Low-Income Families</p>	<p>Ensure equitable access to comprehensive services for families with limited incomes to support healthy child development, family well-being, and economic stability. This includes access to a continuum of early learning supports and opportunities, wage and career progression programs, healthcare, basic needs, and affordable housing and child care.</p>

<p>Preserve Washington State's Long Term Care System and Senior Independence</p>	<p>Snohomish County supports community-based options that help older adults remain as independent as possible in the community. Fully fund the Senior Citizens Services Act (SCSA). Retain Medicaid as an entitlement program which allows for enrollment increases during economic downturns and does not convert to block grants. Support unpaid family caregivers. Additionally, Snohomish County asks the state to develop a contingency plan for ensuring long-term care needs are met if WA Cares Fund is repealed by the voters.</p>
<p>Respond to the Needs of a Growing Older Population</p>	<p>Snohomish County supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustaining adequate funding for the Older Americans Act. • Maximizing the transportation resources available to older adults and people with disabilities through greater collaboration among transit, planning agencies, the Aging Network, and disability organizations. • Expanding options for safe, accessible, and affordable housing for older adults and people with disabilities. • Supporting Family Caregivers and loved ones by developing Dementia Friendly Communities.
<p>Revise Resources Restrictions for Public Assistance Programs</p>	<p>Eligibility for public assistance is generally determined based on a combination of factors including disability status, income, and resources or assets available to the applicant. Currently, exempted resources include a motor vehicle worth \$5,000 or less and all other resources not to exceed \$1,000. Snohomish County supports legislation that would exempt a motor vehicle if it is used for transportation for the individual or a member of the individual's family and all other resources up to a limit set by the Department of Social and Health Services and adjusted to local cost of living expenses. Similar legislation (HB 1831) passed the House with bipartisan support in 2017.</p>
<p>Funding for 211</p>	<p>Ensure 211 is funded to meet that system's needs.</p>

Building Out
Community Behavioral
Health and Crisis
Response Systems

Snohomish County encourages the legislature to build out and fully fund community behavioral health and crisis response systems. While there are many opportunities for policy and funding efforts in this area, for the 2025 session the focused for Snohomish County will be on funding for community behavioral health, supporting the new Secure Withdrawal Management & Stabilization (SWMS) Facility, and other investment opportunities to support behavioral health and crisis response.

- **Community Behavioral Health:** To adequately build out a comprehensive Community Behavioral Health system in Washington, Snohomish County supports:
 - Increasing behavioral health rates (Medicaid and non-Medicaid) to allow for BH agencies to attract and retain therapists into the community behavioral health system.
 - Require Medicaid reimbursement to be sufficient to cover round-trip costs for Ambulance transport. There is also interest in increasing Medicaid reimbursement rates for ambulances overall in order to attract and maintain quality ambulance providers.
- **Secure Withdrawal Management & Stabilization (SWMS) Facility:**
- Identify opportunities for capital or operational funding support from the state.
- Look for policy barriers that could be addressed to maximize the use of the SWMS facility, once built and operational.
 - Assess the state Involuntary Treatment Act under RCW 71.05 to ensure it allows for involuntary detention under specific circumstances.
 - Require hospitals to hold patients for but SUD and non-SUD involuntary detention until a bed is available and a patient can be transported to a facility.
 - Identify barriers for reimbursement for ambulance transport to certain non-medical facilities
 - Request funding for an onsite medical clearance pilot at the SWMS facility.
- **Other Investment Opportunities in Behavioral Health & Crisis Response Services:** Pursue other funding opportunities that can be considered for priorities relating to behavioral health and crisis response services.
 - Look for opportunity to fund Trueblood Services in Snohomish County ([forensic navigators](#), [FHARPS](#), [FPATH](#), and [more](#)) with state funding while awaiting the County's ultimate inclusion in a future phase of the Trueblood Settlement implementation.
 - Request funding to continue and expand the EMS buprenorphine administration pilots currently funded by HCA grants.
 - Secure funding for additional Street Medicine Teams outside of Everett.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Request state funding to continue the EMS nursing line. ○ Continue and expand the North Sound pilot for BHASO flexibility to other interested BH-ASOs. ○ Support legislation establishing parameters for HCA for MCO re-procurement.
Veterans Services Officers	<p>HB 1448, passed in the 2019 Legislative Session, created the Veterans Service Officer (VSO) Program to provide funding for counties with a population of 100,000 or less to establish and maintain a Veteran Service Officer Program. The Legislature has gradually expanded this program through the budget. In 2024, the Legislature provided \$1.2 million in the Operating Budget to add VSOs in four additional counties, but not in Snohomish County. Meanwhile, claims work for veterans' services has increased significantly in Snohomish County in the last several years. The County asks that the Legislature provide sufficient funding for a VSO in Snohomish County to accommodate this increase.</p>
Tribal Health Parity	<p>Snohomish County supports the Foundational Public Health Services Steering Committee request to bring parity to Tribal Health Funding.</p>
Local Board and Commission Volunteer Participation Stipends	<p>In 2022, the Legislature passed Senate Bill 5793, authorizing stipends of up to \$200 per day and payment of costs for travel, childcare, and lodging for low-income participants and individuals with lived experience participating on state task forces and workgroups. This policy removes a potential barrier for community member participation in these workgroups, which are unpaid and can often conflict with essential activities such as childcare or work. Though the state modified their policy, counties and other local governments are still not authorized to provide similar stipends for positions on boards or commissions. Snohomish County supports legislation authorizing a similar change for local boards and commissions.</p>
Continue Extension of Apple Health Expansion Coverage	<p>Washington State authorized an expansion of Apple Health coverage (the state's Medicaid-like health insurance program) to include individuals 19+ that do not qualify for regular Apple Health programs due to their immigration status. This program covers individuals who do not meet the federal 5-year waiting period. However, the program has reached its enrolment limit. Snohomish County supports further expansion of this program for undocumented individuals that are not covered under the program.</p>

Monitor State Opioid Funding	The Supreme Court’s 2024 ruling on the Purdue Pharma (Sackler) settlement puts billions of opioid settlement dollars at risk. These dollars fund essential public health and opioid response programs and are critical to statewide and local strategies to address the opioid crisis. Snohomish County will continue to monitor state action around opioid settlement dollars and funding for opioid and drug epidemic response.
Refugee Resettlement	Snohomish County supports continued investment in refugee resettlement efforts and asks that the county receive its fair share of state dollars available for these services.
Facilities Contaminated with Fentanyl	Snohomish County asks the state to expedite development of health and safety standards for facilities and equipment contaminated with fentanyl. Additionally, the county supports state funding for remediation.
Local Plans for Aging	Each state is required to develop and submit a multi-sector State Plan on Aging to the federal government. Washington’s plan, which runs through the period of October 1, 2023 – September 30, 2027, identifies policy suggestions that go far beyond services currently available to seniors, many of which would be beneficial to implement at a statewide or local level. Snohomish County asks the state to provide resources for local jurisdictions to complete similar local plans on aging. Additionally, the county asks the state to provide funding to implement policy suggestions outlined in these plans.
Prenatal and Maternal Health	Ensure equitable access to prenatal and maternal health services. Increase funding and improve access to perinatal (prenatal through postpartum) care that addresses preventable maternal deaths, including mental and behavioral health support, and that promotes better maternal health outcomes across the perinatal period. Expand access to integrated care that delivers evidence informed services including linkages to treatments and community resources.
Comprehensive Behavioral Health Services for Children and Families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase funding and support for early intervention behavioral and mental health supports for children, youth, and families by increasing and diversifying the behavioral health workforce, increasing access to behavioral health services in underserved areas and for underserved populations, and providing behavioral health services in locations convenient and familiar to persons who might need those services.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand access to behavioral health through telehealth, web-based, and cultural and linguistic language services at every level across the spectrum of service, from preventive care to inpatient hospitalization for children, youth, and caregivers.
Family Resource Centers	Support funding to support the state-wide network of Family Resource Centers including \$150,000 per year for 30 Family Resource Centers around the state and \$250,000 per year for state-wide network coordination.
Expand PFMLA and Tax Rebates for Families	Snohomish County asks the state to expand the Paid Family and Medical Leave Program (PFMLA) eligibility to include all families. Additionally, the county supports state investment and expansion of family tax relief programs, such as the working family tax incentive.

EDUCATION

Higher Education	<p>Snohomish County continues to support expansion of higher education opportunities within the county. EcoDevo and the FWA continues to work with Workforce Snohomish and all education partners, and are looking toward partnering on more specific initiatives such as SAF R&D Center, cybersecurity, data analytics, aviation, and aerospace.</p> <p>We support the provision of appropriate capital and program funding for UW Bothell, WSU Everett/ Everett University Center & partners such as Western Washington University, Edmonds CC, Everett CC, Medical Pathways Facility at Everett High School, and the WSU College of Medicine to expand STEM and other high-demand programs. Snohomish County supports capital and operating support for SnoIsle Libraries. We also support Career Connected Learning by fully funding CTE programs, continued funding STEM networks including Snohomish STEM, and allocation of funds for career pathway programs and facilities.</p>
Adequate Funding for School Districts	<p>Snohomish County supports legislative proposals to ensure school districts receive adequate funding to remain whole. Snohomish County will monitor the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction’s 2025 Agency Decision Package for opportunities to support a funding package.</p>
Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT)	<p>Fully fund Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT), including funding for workforce recruitment and retention, and funding to improve culturally relevant early support services. Early identification and early support services enhance physical, cognitive, and social/emotional development for children with developmental delays and disabilities, increase family competence and well-being, and improve future outcomes for children and families. One in 3 infants and toddlers who receive early support services no longer require special education in preschool. By minimizing the need for special education, early support services greatly reduce educational costs over time.</p>
Working Connections Child Care (WCCC)	<p>The Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) program helps families with low incomes pay for child care while they work, participate in WorkFirst, or are enrolled in an educational program. WCCC reimbursement rates were increased in 2019 session and there continues to be a need allocate additional funding to support licensed family and center programs to comply with new licensing requirements and to provide quality early</p>

	<p>learning services. Snohomish County supports increasing WCC reimbursement rates and/or capacity building funding.</p> <p>The Working Connections Child Care program (WCCC) has specific guidelines for eligibility based on enrollment in an education program. 2019 changes exempt single parents that are full-time student from the 20 hours a week work requirement. The County supports extending this work requirement exemption for full-time students as a condition of receiving WCCC benefits for two parent families.</p>
<p>Early Childhood Education Assistance Program (ECEAP)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize that quality preschool helps children to reach their full potential for success in school and in life. • Fully fund Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) and Early ECEAP (slot rates), including all model options (part-day, school-day, and working-day). • Once fully funded, expand ECEAP and Early ECEAP services to serve all eligible children and their families. <p>Support innovative initiatives for universal preschool with mixed models and inclusive environments.</p>
<p>Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health</p>	<p>Fully fund initiatives to increase the availability of qualified infant mental health providers, to provide mental health and trauma informed training for the early learning workforce, and to connect families to infant mental health services that meet their cultural and linguistic needs. 1 in 10 children under the age of 5 experience mental health concerns that may be biological or the result of traumatic experience(s). For babies in poverty, 22% experience mental health conditions including PTSD and anxiety. Without infant mental health support and services, these children are especially vulnerable to poor health, problems in school, criminal justice involvement, and other lifelong mental health concerns. The number of children and families who are experiencing trauma and other concerns continues to grow, and the current resources fall significantly short of the need.</p>
<p>Mixed-Delivery Early Childhood Education (ECE)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the availability of safe, culturally appropriate early care and education services through mixed-delivery models that support the development of young children, economic vitality for families and businesses, and competitive living wages for early care and education workers.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Support legislation that increases the capacity of early learning services to successfully provide fully inclusive programming, including training for early care and education workers.
Child Care for All Families	Ensure affordable and accessible quality childcare capped at 7% of household income.
Facility Support and Expansion	Increase funding for early learning facility development and improvements including public schools and licensed child care.

HOUSING	
Affordable Low Barrier Housing	<p>Snohomish County supports the elimination of duplicative planning and regulatory burdens at the state level that impact housing affordability and support the reduction of other regulatory requirements that significantly impact housing affordability without a commensurate benefit for the environment or the general welfare of our communities. The county supports the Legislature continuing increases to the amount of funding dedicated to the Housing Trust Fund for the needs of special populations, the elderly, those with low incomes, permanent supportive housing, and workforce housing, including the need for low barrier housing for individuals experiencing opioid addiction and other substance use disorders. The county supports increased administrative flexibility in developing housing programs and the reduction of any state organizational barriers such as multiple licensing requirements and overlapping directives.</p>
Multiple Family Tax Exemptions	<p>State law allows the creation of multi-family tax exemption program which can be useful to create housing which is more affordable. Unfortunately, Snohomish County is not eligible as it cannot meet the criteria in RCW 84.14.040(d). The county supports legislation that would allow utilization of the program. There have been several legislative proposals authorizing county use of MFTE that are likely to return in the 2025 Legislative Session; Snohomish County will monitor these proposals for opportunities to support.</p>
Condo Liability Reform	<p>Condominiums are one tool to increase the supply of dense, affordable or workforce housing in communities. However, condo construction has lagged, with the state's condo liability laws often cited as a barrier to construction. Snohomish County supports reducing barriers to condo construction and will monitor proposals reforming condo liability for opportunities to engage.</p>
Mobile Home Purchase Moratoriums	<p>Mobile home communities are an important source of affordable housing in Snohomish County. However, mobile home communities statewide are being purchased by developers, who are subsequently raising rates for owners in the communities. The Legislature has attempted to address this issue by adopting opportunity-to-purchase legislation or moratoriums on purchases in recent sessions; however, state statute is inconsistent, leading to a patchwork of moratoriums. Snohomish County supports continued state attention</p>

	to this issue to ensure mobile home communities remain affordable and residents are not priced out of their homes.
Housing Support for Individuals Exiting Jail	Snohomish County supports state funding for set-aside units or housing vouchers for individuals who are exiting jail.
Rental Assistance for Mortgages	Snohomish County asks the Legislature to provide additional support for mortgage payment assistance, such as allowing for rental assistance funds to be used towards mortgage payments.